

**CITY OF MILPITAS  
SISTER CITIES COMMISSION MINUTES**

**MINUTES:** Meeting of Sister Cities Commission (SCC)  
**DATE OF MEETING:** Thursday, March 26, 2009  
**PLACE OF MEETING:** Milpitas City Hall, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd., Committee Meeting Room

**I. ROLL** Vice-Chair Arbaugh called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.  
**Commissioners / Alternates Present:** Tran, Arefi, Arbaugh, Ortega, Chen  
**Commissioners Absent:** Grilli, Mateo  
**City Council Liaison Present:** Vice Mayor McHugh  
**MUSD Liaison Present:** Alisantosa  
**Staff Present:** Cuciz, Harris

**II. ALTERNATES** No Alternate Commissioners.

**III. PLEDGE** Vice-Chair Arbaugh led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. MINUTES** **MOTION** to approve the Minutes of February 26, 2009.  
M/S: Arefi/Tran AYES: All

**V. AGENDA** **MOTION** to approve the March 26, 2009 agenda.  
M/S: Arefi/Tran AYES: All

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

- The 2009 Commissioners' Recognition Event brunch will be held Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at Dave and Busters, Milpitas Great Mall, beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, is the ground breaking ceremony for the new senior center (the old library, Calaveras Blvd.) at 9:00 a.m.

**VII. PUBLIC FORUM:**

Resident Debra Hardin, 1922 Shenandoah Dr.

-Ms. Hardin was interested in the future of the relationship with Tsukuba, Japan. She expressed an interest in possibly applying to join the commission, for either herself and/or her daughter.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Consideration of non-voting student member:**

The M.U.S.D. has not made any recommendations yet regarding a non-voting student member to the S.C.C. M.U.S.D. Liaison Alisantosa will attend the Youth Advisory Committee (Y.A.C.) meeting, April 9<sup>th</sup>, to bring attention to the potential opening of an S.C.C. non-voting student position. If the Y.A.C. expresses interest and there is a student who could serve in the non-voting position, the commission can

determine the next steps in terms of making a recommendation to the City Council as this would require a change to the Sister Cities Commission bylaws and would need approval.

## **IX. OLD BUSINESS:**

**2. HUIZHOU:** No status at this time.

**3. DAGUPAN:** No status at this time.

### **3. TSUKUBA:**

Per Tsukuba's email, at this time, Tsukuba cannot commit to the future S.C. relationship with Milpitas. Per Vice Mayor McHugh's request, Staff Liaison Cuciz will check into the company in Fremont that is thought to have assisted with the initiation of the relationship with Tsukuba. Staff Liaison Cuciz will also check with former commissioner Echo Arthur regarding the former business members and company contact information. Vice Mayor McHugh indicated that the company had moved out of Milpitas to Fremont some time ago. Staff Liaison Cuciz will forward the email from Tsukuba to Mayor Livengood per Vice Mayor McHugh's request.

### **4. WESTERN EUROPEAN REPORT:**

The recommendation from the S.C.C. to the City Council to send a letter of interest from Mayor Livengood to Hochheim's Mayor was approved on March 17, 2009. Staff Liaison Cuciz drafted the letter for the commission's review and will forward to Mayor Livengood for his signature. Commissioner Arefi has been in contact with the economic development officer of Newry, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom. They have expressed an interest in discussing the possibility of a S.C. relationship in the U.S.

S.C. International allows cities to post information in order to foster S.C. relationships. Staff Liaison Cuciz will contact S.C. International to obtain Milpitas' login codes for the commissioners and the Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor McHugh has heard from his contacts in Florence and they have expressed an interest in an S.C. relationship, but have concerns about the cost. Vice Mayor McHugh relayed that the cities traditionally do not bear the bulk of the cost for the travelers. He requested permission from the S.C.C. to explore possible cities in the province of Florence. By consensus, the S.C.C. agreed.

## **X. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:**

Vice Mayor McHugh reported that the April 7<sup>th</sup> council meeting will include:

- Parking at Mid Town area project, transit area plans.
- Expansion of the redevelopment area to address blight within the city.
- The stimulus money received will be used for re-paving Park Victoria.
- SCC letter of interest to Hochheim item approved on consent, without discussion.
- Economic development: Target, Trader Joes, and IHOP have expressed interest in opening businesses within Milpitas. The old Home Depot (Landess) has been approved to open an Asian shopping mall area with eateries.
- Walmart is interested in expanding by 18,000 sq. feet for grocery sales.

- M.P.D. agreed to a three-year contract with a 2% increase per year.

## **XI. SCHOOL BOARD LIAISON REPORT**

M.U.S.D. Liaison Alisantosa reported the following:

- M.U.S.D. and City Council to hold a joint meeting at 7:00 pm, 3/31/09.
- Cal Hills received two awards at a ceremony on March 19<sup>th</sup>.
- 3/22-3/25/09, Western Association of School and Colleges for the accreditation of Cal Hills.

## **XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Sister City Relationships / Cultural Exchange
  - i. Huizhou City, China
  - ii. Dagupan City, PI
  - iii. Tsukuba City, Japan – Expiration of Agreement
2. Western European Sister City Research / Update
3. Student Representative - Non-voting.

## **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

No further business was discussed and Vice Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:57 P.M. until the next regularly scheduled meeting on April 23, 2009.

**MOTION** to adjourn.

M/S: Arefi/Ortega

AYES: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Toni Harris

Sister Cities Recording Secretary

Holly Cuciz

Sister Cities Liaison